

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Canceled.
2. (Previously presented) The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 wherein the protein is cell-wall associated, and binds both soluble and immobilized fibrinogen.
3. (Previously presented) The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 wherein the antibody recognizes a protein that is cell wall-associated, exhibits cation-dependent ligand-binding and has a highly conserved motif of which the consensus sequence is TYTFTDYVD (SEQ ID NO: 16).
4. (Previously presented) The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 which is raised against the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
5. (Previously presented) The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 which is raised against the A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.
6. Canceled.
7. (Previously presented) An isolated antibody that binds to an SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis* wherein the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein is encoded by the nucleic acid comprising nucleic acids 102-2894 of SEQ ID NO:7.

8. (Currently amended) ~~An~~The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 that recognizes the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

9. (Previously presented) A diagnostic kit comprising the antibody according to Claim 7 and a means for identifying binding by said antibody.

10. (Currently amended) The isolated~~isolated~~ antisera containing the antibody according to Claim 7.

11-12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously presented) The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 wherein said antibody is reactive with a protein that is cell wall-associated, exhibits cation-dependent ligand-binding and has a highly conserved motif of which the consensus sequence is TYTFTDYVD (SEQ ID NO: 16), wherein the protein is isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

14. (Currently amended) ~~An~~The isolated antibody according to Claim 13 wherein the protein comprises the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

15. (Currently amended) ~~An~~The isolated antibody according to Claim 7 wherein the antibody binds to the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein isolated from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

16. (Previously presented) A diagnostic kit comprising the antibody according to Claim 2 and a means for identifying binding by said antibody.

17. (Previously presented) A diagnostic kit comprising the antibody according to Claim 3 and a means for identifying binding by said antibody.

18. (New) An isolated antibody that binds to the ligand binding A region of an SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis* wherein said region is encoded by the nucleic acid having the sequence of nucleotides 252 to 1895 of SEQ ID NO:7.

19. (New) The isolated antibody according to Claim 18 wherein the ligand binding A region of an SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein has the sequence of from amino acid 51 to amino acid 598 of SEQ ID NO:10.